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SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY
Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies

Programme:	Ph.D.
Course No:	
Course Title:	Political Evolution of Russia from Serfdom to Socialism
Course Type:	Optional
Semester:	Monsoon
Course Teacher & Contact Details:	Name: Dr. Dinesh Kumar Room No: 238, SIS I Email: dinesh4829@gmail.com
Credits:	4
Contact Hours:	4 hours/week

Course Statement

The abolition of serfdom in 1861 marked a new phase of socio-political and economic transformation of Russia. The post-1861 era witnessed the emancipation of agricultural labourers, land reforms, and a revitalised economic system along with the rise of a new social consciousness among the masses in the Russian social system. With the passage of time, different-- ideological strands emerged because of the social emancipation, contributing to the October Revolution of 1917. The formation of the Soviet Union, along with de-Stalinization, resulted in a new phase in Soviet Russia's modernisation process. Post1953, the Khrushchev period gave a new impetus to Soviet domestic policies, facilitating further modernisation of Soviet society.

This course will discuss socio-economic and political development of Russia from 1861 to 1953. This is an important phase to understand the political development of Soviet Russia. The abolition of Serfdom provided the basis for the emergence of new socio-political movements. At the same time, this is the phase where one can see the essence of socialism as a key indicator to major socio-political development of Soviet Russia

Learning Outcomes

Upon the completion of the course, students will have the knowledge and skills to:

1. Understand the socio-political and economic implication of the emancipation of agricultural labourers in the post 1861 era.
2. Understand the dynamics of the Russian revolution and the formation of the Soviet Union.

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3. Understand the Soviet modernisation process in the Stalinist era till 1953, when Khrushchev ascended to power.

Evaluation Method

- Classroom Participation and Performance: 10%
- Assignments: Term Paper/Book Review: 20%
- Seminar Presentation: 20%
- End Semester Examination: 50%

Course Outline

Module 1: Abolition of Serfdom and Its Socio-Economic/Political Dimensions

This module will highlight the nature of economic transformation that happened in Russia in the post 1861 era and its repercussions on socio-political processes of Russia. This module will discuss:

- Factors Leading to the Abolition of Serfdom
- Implications on the Social and Political Structure
- Economic Implications

Module 2: Socio-Political Movements in Russia

This module will discuss the socio-political movements that occurred in Russia and the emergence of various ideological strands and their impact on the masses. Some of these developments that will be highlighted in the module are:

- Nature of Social and Political Movements
- 1905 Revolution
- Revolution of 1917
- War Communism
- Constitution of 1918

Module 3: Formation of the Soviet Union

This module will discuss the establishment of the Soviet Union in 1922 and the key political and economic developments that followed will also be analysed. The module will include:

- New Economic Policy (NEP)
- 'Socialism in One Country', Collectivisation and Industrialisation
- Soviet Nationality Policy
- Constitutions of 1924 and 1936

Module 4: De-Stalinization and the Soviet Political System

This module will discuss the key developments in the Stalinist and post-Stalinist period that had a bearing on the course of Russia's political development. The module will include:

- Significance of the 20th CPSU Congress
- De-Stalinisation
- Socio-Economic Progress of Soviet Russia
- Political Development in Soviet Russia

Readings

Module 1: Abolition of Serfdom and Its Socio-Economic/Political Dimensions

Essential Readings

Bushkovitch, Paul (2012), *A Concise History of Russia*, Cambridge University Press: Prologue, Chapters 7, 11, 15 (pp. 79-100, 117-37, 186-207, 249-271)

Chenoy, Anuradha M. and Upadhyay, Archana (2021), *Hundred Years of the Russian Revolution*, Palgrave Macmillan, Chapters 1, 2,3,4 (pp. 1-68)

Riasanovsky, Nicholas V (2011), *A History of Russia*, 8th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press (pp. 363-384, 421-438)

Field, Daniel (1978), "The Peasant Emancipation of 1861: A Revisionist View," *Slavic Review* 37, no. 4 (PP. 579-607)

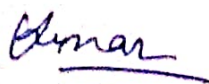
Moon, David (1995), "Peasant Migration and the Abolition of Serfdom in Russia." *The Historical Journal* 38, no. 4 (1995): 859-876.

Dixon, Simon (1999), *The Modernization of Russia 1676-1825*, Cambridge University Press, Chapters 1, 2, (pp. 1-49)

Hosking, Geoffrey (2001), *Russia and the Russians: A History*, Harvard University Press, Chapters 2, 7, (pp. 29-82, 83-128, 285-319)

Marc, Raeff (2019), *Understanding Imperial Russia: State and Society in the Old Regime*, Chapter 2.4 (pp. 35-56, 89-112)

Tsygankov, Andrei P. (2014), *The Strong State in Russia: Development and Crisis* (Oxford University Press, 2014): Preface; Chapters 3, 4, (pp.29-48)



Additional Readings

- Ostrowski, Donald (1998), "Collaboration and Resistance: The Russian Princes under the Mongol Yoke", *Russian History*, Vol. 25, No. 1-2
- Saunders, David (1992) *Russia in The Age of Reaction and Reform 1801-1881*, London: Longman, Chapter 11, (pp 311-38)
- Geifman, Anna (2020) *Thou Shalt Kill: Revolutionary Terrorism in Russia, 1894-1917*, Princeton University Press (pp. 1-34)
- Harding, Neil (1983) *Lenin's Political Thought*, The Macmillan Press LTD, Chapter 9, (pp. 213-48) <https://redyouthnwa.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/lenins-political-thought-harding.pdf>
- Lincoln, W. Bruce (1990), *The Great Reforms: Autocracy, Bureaucracy, and the Politics of Change in Imperial Russia*, DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press
- Turgenev, Ivan¹ (1862), *Fathers and Sons*, Barnes and Noble Classics, New York

Module 2: Revolutionary Movements in 19th Century Russia

- Mazour, Anatole G. (2018). *The First Russian Revolution 1825: The Decembrist Movement Its Origins, Development, and Significance*, St. John's Press.
- Raeff, Marc (1966). *The Decembrist Movement in Cherniavsky and Lederer (ed.), Russian Civilisation Series*, <https://www.scribd.com/document/796104400/The-Decembrist-Movement>
- Venturi Franco (1960) *Roots of Revolution A History of The Populist and Socialist Movements In Nineteenth Century Russia*, New York: Alfred A Knopf-Publishers
- Saunders, David (1992) *Russia in The Age of Reaction and Reform 1801-1881*, London: Longman, Chapter 11, pp 311-38
- Geifman, Anna (2020) *Thou Shalt Kill: Revolutionary Terrorism in Russia, 1894-1917*, Princeton University Press
- Haimson, Leopold Henri (1955) *The Russian Marxists & the origins of Bolshevism Cambridge*: Harvard University Press (pp. 1-24, 165-208)

Additional Readings:

- Harding, Neil (1983) *Lenin's Political Thought*, The Macmillan Press LTD, Chapter 9, pp. 213-48 <https://redyouthnwa.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/lenins-political-thought-harding.pdf>
- Haimson, Leopold Henri (1955) *The Russian Marxists & the origins of Bolshevism Cambridge* : Harvard University Press

Module 3: Formation of the Soviet Union

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Essential Readings

Hosking, Geoffrey (2001), *Russia and the Russians: A History*, Harvard University Press, Chapters 5 (pp. 119-48)

Hardy, Jeffrey (2023), *The Soviet Gulag: History and Memory* Bloomsbury, see Introduction and Ch. 1 (pp. 1-38)

Orlando Figes, (2014), *Revolutionary Russia, 1891–1991: A History*, Metropolitan Books, (Chapters 5,6,11,15)

R. G. Suny (2011), *The Soviet Experiment: Russia, the USSR, and the Successor States*, Oxford University Press, Chapter 1, 2, 6 (pp. 3-65, 167-74)

Ronald Suny, (1993), *The Revenge of the Past: Nationalism, Revolution, and the Collapse of the Soviet Union*, Chapter 2, 3 (20-83, 68-)

Sheila Fitzpatrick, (1999), *Everyday Stalinism: Ordinary Life in Extraordinary Times: Soviet Russia in the 1930s*, Oxford University Press (Chapter 1 and 8)

Additional Readings

Bushkovitch P. (2011), In: *A Concise History of Russia*, Cambridge Concise Histories, Cambridge University Press (pp.461-472)

Carr, E. H. (1958), *Socialism in One Country*, Volume 1, 2, 3, Macmillan, New York

Hosking, Geoffrey. (2001). *Russia and the Russians: A History*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, (pp. 353-469)

Kotkin, Stephen (2014), *Stalin: Paradoxes of Power, 1878–1928*, New York: Penguin Press (pp.12-134)

Kotkin, Stephen (2017), *Stalin: Waiting for Hitler, 1929–1941*, New York: Penguin Press (pp. 1-69)

Solzhenitsyn, Aleksandr (1973), "The Gulag Archipelago" (multiple volumes, especially Vol. 1: (pp. 17-120)

McCauley, Martin (2007), *The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union*, Routledge (pp. 9-77)

Nove, Alec (1992), *An Economic History of the USSR, 1917–1991*, London: Penguin (pp.39-189)

Peter Kenez (2008), *A History of the Soviet Union from the Beginning to the End* Cambridge University Press (pp. 1-131)

Module 4: De-Stalinization and the Soviet Political System

Gulag - The Story | Part 3: Peak & Death - 1945-1957 | Free Documentary History
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBjcT0QxSS0>

The Last Tsar, Netflix Documentary

History of Russia - Rurik to Revolution by Epic History
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w0Wmc8C0Eq0>

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